



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPECIAL MEETING

County Courthouse
Bridgeport, California 93517

January 22, 2008

9:00 a.m. Meeting Called to Order by Chairwoman Bauer

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Hunt

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one spoke.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Reid reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Several weeks ago, an ESTA driver in Walker broke his leg and was not replaced. This reduced the number of transportation runs, which was disappointing.
2. Met with Ken Spooner, Executive Director of the Walker River Irrigation District, on January 9th. The District is considering leasing water (an option different from Senator Reid's plan); the water holders seem to agree with the leasing program. Supervisor Reid asked Spooner to come to a Board meeting and give an update. Stacey Simon, Assistant County Counsel, said the lease program is linked to Senator Reid's settlement legislation. The geographic location of the acquisition program would stay in Nevada, and the lease program would include areas of California; the program would be managed locally by the District. This should not affect the Bridgeport PUD.
3. Bruce Woodworth from Antelope Valley has agreed to serve on the Central Sierra Conservation Resource Council; he will attend the annual meeting on Thursday. The Board will confirm his appointment on February 5th.

Supervisor Hunt reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Grant applications totaling \$1,337,000 have been submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy; there is \$834,000 left for this year. The Conservancy will make funding decisions in March.
2. Attended the Town-County Liaison meeting last Thursday. (1) Kirk Stapp discussed the Town funding shortfalls; due to lack of development and no DIF, many projects have been put on hold, such as the police station. (2) Talked about the Sierra Center Mall; the County will take the lead in the analysis. (3) The AOC purchase is not yet final. (4) Discussed the

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status of the Assessor's recall; Bob Musil has been keeping the department operational. (5) Discussed the Fish and Game update. (6) The Town is proposing to increase sales tax by .5%, and reduce the utility tax but extend it indefinitely. (7) Sports Management Inc. has been hired to develop a program for the South Gateway. (8) Air service is on target for December 2008. (9) It has been suggested that the County's Housing Authority have its own staff member to work on housing needs and issues. Also, the County was cautioned about dealings with Intrawest, and should ask for a 100% housing commitment.

3. Attended the ESTA meeting on Friday the 18th. Discussed a short-range transit plan and selection of the executive director; will interview the final applicants next month. Bus ridership is up even though the rates increased.

Supervisor Hazard reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Attended the adjourned meeting in Mammoth Lakes last week.
2. Attended the Town Council meeting where Sheriff Scholl reported about the storm warning. The Council was generally supportive. It was a good discussion.
3. Met with the Eastern Sierra Land Trust, California Wildlife Conservancy Board, and planning staff on the 17th to discuss a funding mechanism, or method of operation, for land conservancies since the land is taken off the tax rolls when so designated. The state was planning to purchase many acres in the south county and resell the land with easements, but the parties are currently working on a different strategy in order to keep the property on the tax rolls. This idea will be explored further.
4. Attended the Town-County Liaison meeting on the 17th.
5. Attended a Conway Ranch meeting with Supervisor Farnetti to discuss bringing Alpers trout onto Conway. Since these trout are different than average trout, there is some concern with the pressure of maintaining the quality of Alpers trout. This use of Conway Ranch is also different than what was negotiated in the contract.
6. Received a call from Congressman McKeon's office about 10 days ago. The wilderness discussion and Hoover are still under consideration. They are addressing issues and making progress, contrary to County perception.
7. Attended the Mammoth Lakes Library opening on the 20th; it is a beautiful facility. A number of the bookshelves have dedication plaques in memory of community members who have passed away. Also, a tapestry was on display that was made by members of the community in 1976; it is a history of Mono County and Mammoth. The possibility of a permanent display is being explored.
8. McGee Creek is preparing for the upcoming ski event.
9. Has officially announced his decision to run for re-election.

Supervisor Farnetti reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Last Thursday, met with Tim Alpers and Todd O'Bannion (AIG). Talked about concepts for Conway Ranch (i.e. raising 10,000 pounds of fish, using Conway as a staging area for Alpers trout, and constructing employee housing). These projects will have to comply with the grant agreements, which may need to be renegotiated. The Board will receive a presentation at a future meeting.
2. The CSAC web page has a breakdown on the state budget. There will be delayed payments in health and human services and mental health.
3. Attended the ribbon cutting and dedication of the Mammoth Lakes Library. Rich McAteer was honored for his work in getting the library built. Up to 250 people a day are using the facility.
4. Occupancy in Mammoth Lakes over the holiday weekend was about 80%; it was a good weekend for retail and the Mountain.
5. Supervisor Reid was voted in as vice chair of LTC.

Chairwoman Bauer reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Announced her candidacy to run for re-election.
2. Spoke with Madera County about YARTS.
3. Attended the agenda review committee meeting.
4. Spoke with the planning department and the CAC about the rodeo grounds project and affordable housing.
5. Attended the ESTA meeting. Local money is available for a regional transit plan; many short-range transit plans are being developed simultaneously. Interviews for the new executive director will be conducted February 15-16. ESTA income is up by 67% in the first 10 days of the new rates.
6. The Clark Tract survey was sent to property owners.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 1) CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (**David Wilbrecht**)
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.

David Wilbrecht, CAO, reported on the following issues and activities:

1. After the Board meeting last week, went to Sacramento. Attended a presentation by the Governor's finance office; they plan to make a 10% across-the-board cut to state departments and county operations. Will closely monitor the state's budget; so far, there is no direct impact to child support services. Also met with a consulting group regarding the scope of work for facilities; the scope of work will be done in time for next year's budget cycle. It will stay focused on the hospital and north county community center, but there are other considerations, such as the Sierra Center Mall purchase, and emerging needs, such as EMS and the jail.
2. In response to recent meetings with the employee union, reiterated that the County is a fine employer; the Board has supported good salaries and benefits, and the county provides opportunities for training. Most employees seem to have this same perception.
3. Attended the Town-County Liaison meeting. Supervisor Hunt did a good job recommending that the Town be conservative with its budget issues.
4. Met with Julie Tiede, director of child support. The budget from the state is stable, but costs have increased. Met with the county administrator of Inyo County to discuss this situation. There either needs to be a better sharing of resources, or a separation of the operations in the region; the second alternative is not positive and would require layoffs. Also talked with the Inyo County administrator about the IMAAA contract; the organization is struggling and is not functioning well. This will be a high priority and Mono County will need to take the lead.
5. Thanked the Board for supporting the change in Tom Wallace's position

- 2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular meeting of January 8, 2008.

M08-014 (*Hunt/Hazard, 5-0*)

CLOSED SESSION

Closed session from 9:04 a.m. through 10:20 a.m.; break from 10:20 a.m. through 10:23 a.m. Reconvened at 10:23 a.m. Break from 12:08 p.m. through 12:13 p.m.; reconvened closed session from 12:13 p.m. through 12:49 p.m. Reconvened regular session at 12:49 p.m.

- 3) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54957.6. Agency designated representatives: David Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Robert Garret, Rita Sherman, Mark Magit, and Brian Muir. Employee organization: International Union of Operating Engineers, Stationary Local 39, AFL-CIO (aka Mono County Public Employees).
- 4) PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT. Government Code Section 54957. Title: Economic Development Coordinator.
- 5) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL — EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b). Number of potential cases: one.
- 6) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54957.6. Agency designated representatives: David Wilbrecht, Robert Garret, Brian Muir, Marshall Rudolph, and Rick Scholl. Employee organization: Mono County Sheriff's Officers Association (aka Deputy Sheriff's Association).

The Board had nothing to report from closed session.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

Christy Robles reported on the following:

1. Provided an update about the upcoming election process and election night. There will be added security in setting up the polls; will be using paper ballots as mandated by the Secretary of State; and will use one touch-screen machine at each polling place in order to comply with access requirements for people with disabilities. There is a new requirement to have two staff people transport the equipment. All mail and absentee ballots will be sorted about noon on election day; ballots will be tabulated after the polls close. The tally process will probably start around 9:30 p.m. Information will be provided to the Secretary of State, the press, and others who call to enquire; the results will also be posted on the website. Staff will then go home for the night, and will be available the next day to answer questions.

Kelly Garcia reported on the following:

1. All furniture for the Board Chambers is expected to be delivered at the end of this week or early next week; it will then be set up in the chambers.

Sheriff Scholl reported on the following:

1. Introduced two employees who were recently promoted as the result of vacancies created when Ralph Obenberger was promoted to undersheriff. Dave O'Hara was promoted to lieutenant, and Pete DeGeorge filled a sergeant position. O'Hara and DeGeorge have both been with the County for several years. Both employees provided a brief overview of their backgrounds.

CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved in one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item)

The Board pulled Items #7 and #8.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 7) Appointment of Members to the Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee

M08-015 ACTION: Approve appointment of members to the Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee as recommended by Supervisor Reid (new appointment: Lucy Parker; reappointments: Bill Banta, Lisa Cutting, Tim Hansen, Mark Logan; current members: Zane Davis, Norm DeChambeau, Yvette Garcia, Chris Lizza, Greg Reis, Dave Marquart).
(Reid/Hazard, 5-0)

Scott Burns: Greg Reis should be listed under current members instead of Mark Logan; Logan is a reappointment.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 8) Letter of Support from the Board of Supervisors for the Devil's Gate Swauger Creek Fire Safe Council's Project to Obtain Funding from Prop 84

M08-016 ACTION: Approve a letter from the Board of Supervisors for the Devil's Gate Swauger Creek Fire Safe Council's project to obtain funding from Prop 84, through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, for fire prevention in the Council's service area.
(Reid/Hunt, 5-0)

Supervisor Reid: The Fire Safe Council has done a good job in this part of the County. He asked members of the community to speak briefly about their work.

Jim Ackles, Chairman of the Devil's Gate Swauger Creek Fire Safe Council, said the council was formed in order to find ways to make the area more fire safe. They received a \$25,000 grant from the BLM in 2006, and with this funding, completed a project (shaded field breaks) in December 2006. They are now requesting \$125,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to expand the shaded field breaks into surrounding areas; they also plan to do an aspen-thinning project and clear 100 feet around various structures. The Council is asking the Board to sign a letter of support for the

project, which will help support their grant request.

Anna Maria Echeverria, with the forest service, said fuels reduction is her area of expertise and she started working with the residents in this area on the County in 2003. The Devil's Gate Swauger Creek Council has remained active (she is working to reactivate the other two councils) and has done a lot of work themselves, so the forest service is supportive. She helped them write a grant for work on private property, and she is currently working on two grants for public property. The grants will compliment each other and help reduce the overall threat in the area. Letters of support from the Board will help push the grants through. Echeverria suggested conducting a workshop to address issues prior to the start of fire season.

Stacey Simon, Assistant County Counsel: Attended a fire chief's meeting to talk about enforcement mechanisms. She drafted a series of letters that inspectors can use to warn property owners about the need for fuels reduction on their property. If the property owner fails to respond, inspectors can notify the County Counsel's office for follow-up enforcement and compliance. She is continuing to work on closing the loophole concerning vacant lots.

Supervisor Reid said he would like to schedule a 1-2 hour workshop, as suggested by Echeverria.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND COUNTY COUNSEL

- 9) Adoption and Approval of an Agreement and First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and Local 39
- R08-04 ACTION:** Adopt **Resolution R08-04** approving an Agreement and First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and Local 39, Majority Representative of the Mono County Public Employees (MCPE) Bargaining Unit.
(Hunt/Farnetti, 5-0)

REGULAR AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (INFORMATIONAL)

All items listed are available for review and are located in the Office of the Clerk of the Board

#	Received	Dated	From	Subject
10a)	1-10-08	1-8-08 postmarked	Bonnie Zwart and Family to Mono County Board of Supervisors	Thanking the Board for honoring Joe Zwart
10b)	1-15-08	12-13-07	Jan Huggans, Chair Bridgeport Valley RPAC, to Supervisor Reid and Members of the Board of Supervisors	Bridgeport Cemetery Reservation Policy
10c)	1-15-08	12-31-07	Maggie Thompson, General Manager NPG Cable, to Hap Hazard, Mono County Board of Supervisors	Rate Adjustment for Basic Cable Television

Supervisor Reid pulled Item #10b so Jan Huggans, Bridgeport RPAC, could address the Board. Huggans said she would like to have a local cemetery committee involved in this issue because she believes the community understands what they would like for the cemetery. Reid said the Lee Vining community would also like to have input; he supports grassroots involvement. Supervisor Hazard said the Tri Valley area needs to be included in discussions concerning cemeteries; there needs to be a factual discussion in the community. David Wilbrecht suggested reforming the cemetery committee and crafting a policy document prior to meeting with community members. He will coordinate this effort.

Regarding Item #10a, Supervisor Farnetti spoke with Bonnie Zwart recently and she said the family was honored to have received a card from the Board.

Chairwoman Bauer acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 11) Yosemite National Park 2008 User Capacity Symposium (**Chairwoman Bauer**)
M08-017 **ACTION:** Approve Chairwoman Bauer's request to attend the Yosemite National Park 2008 User Capacity Symposium, February 6, 7, and 8, 2008; fiscal impact will be \$350.
(Hunt/Reid, 5-0)

Chairwoman Bauer said this is a one-time symposium that she was pre-interviewed to attend. She will receive valuable tools in Yosemite that she can apply to the June Lake area since user capacity is an upcoming issue. The fiscal impact may be about \$350.

MENTAL HEALTH

- 12) CMSP Behavioral Health Pilot Project (**Ann Gimpel**)
M08-018 **ACTION:** Authorize Chair's signature on a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Mammoth Hospital, Sierra Park Family Medicine, and County of Mono—Mental Health Department, to implement a grant-funded behavioral health pilot project.
(Hazard/Hunt, 5-0)

Ann Gimpel: The CMSP board decided to fund mental health services. Mammoth Hospital received funding under the grant, and County Mental Health will provide the services. The County can potentially garner about \$56,000 per year, plus \$18,000 administrative costs. This project will allow County Mental Health to expand its target population and serve more people; there is currently a waiting list in anticipation of the start of this project. Blue Cross will be billed directly for the costs.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

- 13a) Purchase of Property at 107655 Highway 395 in Walker, California (**Brian Muir and Ann Gimpel**)

M08-019 ACTION: (1) Authorize appropriation of \$145,000 from contingency to fund a loan to the Mental Health Fund to finance a portion of the purchase price. (2) Approve agreement to purchase real property located at 107655 Highway 395 in Walker, California.

(Reid/Hazard, 5-0)

Brian Muir: This action is for the purchase of property in Walker that will be used by the Mental Health Department. The purchase price is \$10,000 below the appraisal; \$120,000 from the Mental Health Services Act fund will be used for the purchase, and Muir proposed using \$145,000 from contingency (as a loan) since a commercial loan would be more expensive. The loan amount would be recovered over five years. The payments would be about \$2,700 per month starting after the deal is closed, and the interest rate on the loan would be about 5%. Gimpel is working with the state to have the Mental Health Services Act continue paying.

Ann Gimpel: Once the Mental Health Services Act funds are released from the state, the department will repay the general fund in full; but in the meantime, the department will pay the monthly loan amount.

- 13b) Quarterly Treasury Investment Report (**Brian Muir**)
ACTION: Receive quarterly investment report on the Mono County Treasury Pool.

Brian Muir: The current yield on treasury (5 year) is 2.75%, and may go up to 3.5% in six months. The average yield in the pool is 4.3%. The County has nothing maturing until March 2009, so these rates are locked in; the portfolio looks good going forward. December tax payments have been processed; tax apportionments will stay on schedule. At this point, Muir does not know what the delinquency rate is. The supplemental taxes have dropped to almost nothing (due to no activity in the market); normal collections are good. Will probably not see double-digit appraisals at the next budget.

PUBLIC WORKS

- 14) Tenant Improvements to Third Floor of Sierra Center Mall (**David Wilbrecht and Kelly Garcia**)

M08-020 ACTION: (1) Adopt and approve plans and specifications for tenant improvements to the third floor of Sierra Center Mall. (2) Approve and authorize the Clerk of the Board, in consultation with the Department of Public Works, to advertise for bids. (3) Approve and authorize the County Administrative Officer to process and execute appropriate construction documents during the bid process.

(Farnetti/Hunt, 5-0)

Kelly Garcia: Have been working with Dave Wilbrecht and Pete Mokler (architect) to develop plans for the third floor of Sierra Center Mall. The cost for improvements will be about \$123.00 per square foot; extraneous improvements that were above the nominal rate have been eliminated and added as alternates (type of flooring, countertops, and some lighting). The cost estimate for improvements to the 2nd and 3rd floors is \$803,798—\$400,000 will be provided by the owner, and \$50,000 was approved by the Board last year; this leaves a shortfall of \$350,000, so a request for funding may come before the Board later.

Supervisor Farnetti asked if there are other large expenditures that will need to be addressed this fiscal year. Brian Muir said he didn't know of any at this point, but they need to be conservative and careful in the remainder of this budget year and going in to the new year.

David Wilbrecht: The Board approved funding for a facilities study, which will result in a list of needs and potential costs; he will come back to the Board with a scope of work. Regarding the proposed upgrade, staff has constrained costs as much as possible. Regarding the future of the leased space, the County can sublease space in the event a civic center is constructed and some offices are moved out of the Sierra Center Mall. The owner will be spending \$2 million to upgrade the building and keep it competitive in the market.

Supervisor Farnetti said the lease negotiation saved money over the long-term and provided flexibility while planning for future needs. Supervisor Hazard agreed that this leased space maintains flexibility while the Board considers future needs and costs. Wilbrecht said the only space at risk is the planning office in the Minaret Mall; the owners of that mall will be considering the lease rates, so this will be an issue in the next 18-24 months.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE—HUMAN RESOURCES

- 15) Resolution Approving Employment Contract with Tom Wallace (**Robert Garret**)
R08-05 ACTION: Adopt **Resolution R08-05** approving an employment agreement with Tom Wallace as Assistant County Administrative Officer, and prescribing the compensation, appointment, and conditions of said employment.
(Hazard/Reid, 5-0)

Robert Garret: If the Board approves this item, Wallace will work as an assistant executive officer for the next 11 months to complete an extensive work plan; this 11-month contract begins February 1, 2008, and ends December 31, 2008. The position allocation list is not involved in this request because this is not a new position but an expansion of an existing position. However, the position may be considered as a proposal in the 2008-09 budget if there is a need to retain it.

David Wilbrecht: Wallace will work to accomplish many tasks, but the most important priority is the in-house environmental health services.

Tom Wallace said he is honored to serve in this capacity.

ADJOURNED: 1:43 p.m.

Mono County Board of Supervisors' next regular session will be on **February 5, 2008**, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, California.

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